

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2747

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 5937

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING: SITREP 85

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT WITH FINDING OF JOHN PATTERSON'S REMAINS, ONE PHASE OF KIDNAPPING CASE CLOSED AND ENTIRELY DIFFERENT SET OF PROBLEMS NOW FACE EMBASSY, DEPARTMENT, AND AGENCIES CONCERNED. THIS SEEMS A GOOD POINT TO TAKE STOCK, REASSESS USG POSITION ON KIDNAPPING, AND MAKE CERTAIN ALL ELEMENTS OF USG INVOLVED HAVE COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND COORDINATED APPROACH.

2. EMBASSY KEENLY AWARE OF CONTINUING NEED TO PRESS FORWARD TOWARD FULL CLARIFICATION OF CASE AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE TO THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR PATTERSON'S KIDNAPPING AND DEATH. ON BALANCE, GOM INTEREST IN CASE AND EFFORTS TO COLLABORATE WITH USG IN RESOLUTION HAVE BEEN WHOLEHEARTED AND EFFECTIVE WITHIN TERMS OF GOM CAPABILITIES. SHOULD THERE BE SIGNS OF FALTERING OR DECLINE IN APPROPRIATE AND FEASIBLE ACTIONS BY GOM, EMBASSY WILL FIRMLY PRESS FOR CONTINUING EFFORTS.

3. NOTWITHSTANDING ABOVE, EMBASSY BELIEVES (ASIDE FROM EXTRADITION MATTER WHICH SUBJECT ON SITREP GIRL THAT MAJOR FOCUS ON INTEREST AND ACTION ON PATTERSON CASE NOW LIES IN US AND, IN FACT, TO SOME EXTENT OUTSIDE EXECUTIVE
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BRANCH CONTROL. (WE HAVE NOTED, IN THIS CONNECTION, DIRECT

CONTACT ESTABLISHED
BETWEEN PROSECUTING US ATTORNEY
NELSON IN SAN
IEGO AND MR . ANDRA PATTERSON. WE BELIEVE

ACTION, INTERESTS, AND OBJECTIVES OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY,
WHICH WE DO NOT PRESUME TO EVALUATE OR JUDGE, MAY NOT IN ALL
INSTANCES EXACTLY PARALLEL CONCERNS OF DEPARTMENT AND OTHER
WASHINGTON AGENCIES WHICH HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATIVE

AND BILATERAL RELATIONS ASPECTS OF CASE). THOUGH EMBASSY WILL
CONTINUE TO MONITOR AND ACT,
NECESSARY, WITH RESPECT TO
LEADS ON CASE FROM INVESTIGATIVE POINT OF VIEW, WE HAVE LITTLE
INDICATION THAT IMPORTANT NEW LEADS LIKELY TO EMERGE.
INDICATIONS THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVEMENT OF MEXICAN
OR AMERICAN CITIZENS OTHER THAN KEESEE IN PATTERSON CASE
HAVE BEEN EXCEED-
INGLY SLIGHT, TENTATIVE, AND OBSCURE.

4. ONE ON MOST IMPORTANT CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITIES OF
USG ON PATTERSON CASE WILL CERTAINLY BE MAINTENANCE
OF SYMPATHETIC AND VIABLE RELATIONS WITH PATTERSON FAMILY.
USG MAY NOT (SEE SITREP 84) BE ABLE FINALLY TO SUPPORT
FAMILY'S VIEWS ON EXTRADITION, BUT NEED FOR RESPONDING TO
FAMILY'S INQUIRIES AND VIEWS WILL CONTINUE AND OBVIOUSLY
MUST RECEIVE PROMPT AND PRUDENT ATTENTION. IT IS EMBASSY
VIEW, HOWEVER, THAT USG DOES NOT HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF PATTERSON ACTIONS WHICH THEY
CONSIDER DESIREABLE
IN CONNECTION WITH CASE. EMBASSY DOES
NOT BELIEVE, SPECIFICALLY, THAT
TRAVEL BY PATTERSONS TO
"INVESTIGATE" ASPECTS OF CASE SHOULD BE FUNDED BY USG, NOR
DOES EMBASSY CONSIDER THAT USG SHOULD PAY FOR LONG AND EXPENSIVE
TELEPHONE CALLS BY PATTERSONS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A DISTINCTION
MUST BE DRAWN BETWEEN MRS. ANDRA PATTERSON, AS NEXT-OF-KIN,
AND OTHER RELATIVES. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE
DEPT'S GUIDANCE ON QUESTIONS RAISED ABOVE.

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5. EMBASSY, IN INTEREST OF GOOD MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES, PLANS
TO MAKE CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS TO NEW PHASE OF
SUBJECT CASE. EMBASSY TASK FORCE, FOR EXAMPLE, IS NO LONGER
STRUCTURALLY NECESSARY MECHANISM TO DEAL WITH ONGOING
WORK ON CASE AND EMBASSY PROPOSES TO TERMINATE TF EXISTENCE
AS SUCH. FUTURE ACTION ON PATTERSON KIDNAPPING WILL BE HANDLED
ADMINISTRATIVELY BY PRINCIPAL EMBASSY OFFICERS MOST DIRECTLY
CONCERNED (EXECUTIVE COUNSELOR, POL COUNSELOR, LEGATT,

OTHERS AS REQUIRED) UNDER AMBASSADOR'S AND DCM'S SUPERVISION.
SIMILARLY, EMBASSY WILL CONCLUDE HERewith FORMAL DESIGNATION
OF COMMUNICATIONS ON PATTERSON KIDNAPPING AS "SITREPS".
EMBASSY WISHES TO REITERATE AND EMPHASIZE THAT THESE ADMIN-
ISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS IN NO WAY IMPLY ANY CHANGE IN EMBASSY'S
INTENTION OR LESSENING OF OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN
MAXIMUM EFFORT TO PURSUE GOALS INDICATED IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

7. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S VIEWS ON MATTERS DISCUSSED
ABOVE.
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